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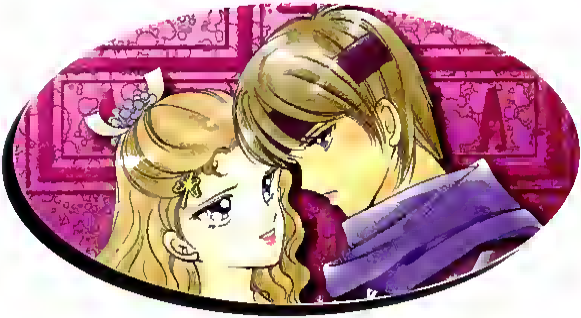

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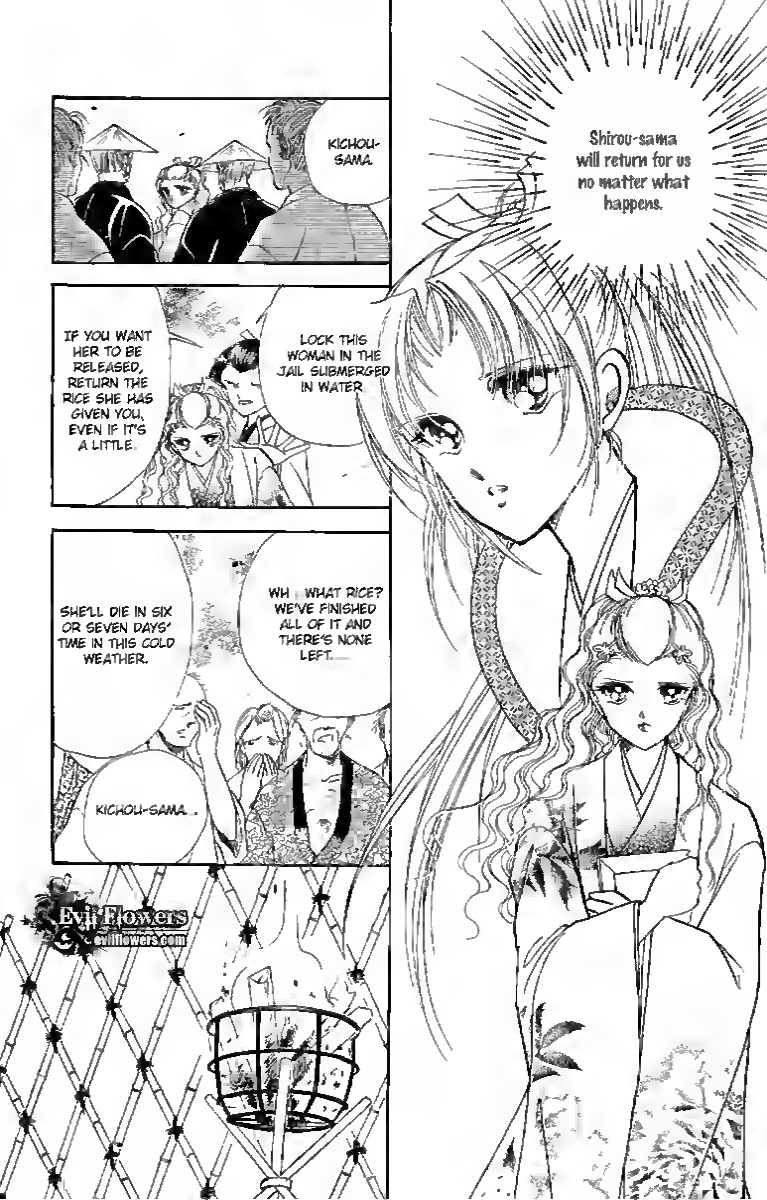
AMAKUSA 1637
アマクサ
MICHIYO AKAISHI PRESENTS
Chapter 27

KICHOU-SAMA!
THEY'RE TAKING KICHOU-SAMA AWAY.
OUR HOPE IS...
BEING EXTINGUISHED...
THERE ISN'T ANY NEED TO WORRY
I BELIEVE IN THAT PERSON HE'LL DEFINITELY RETURN


KICHOU-SAMA.
Shirou-sama will return for us no matter what happens.
IF YOU WANT HER TO BE RELEASED, RETURN THE RICE SHE HAS GIVEN YOU, EVEN IF IT'S A LITTLE.
LOCK THIS WOMAN IN THE JAIL SUBMERGED IN WATER.
SHE'LL DIE IN SIX OR SEVEN DAYS' TIME IN THIS COLD WEATHER.
WH... WHAT RICE? WE'VE FINISHED ALL OF IT AND THERE'S NONE LEFT.....
KICHOU-SAMA..
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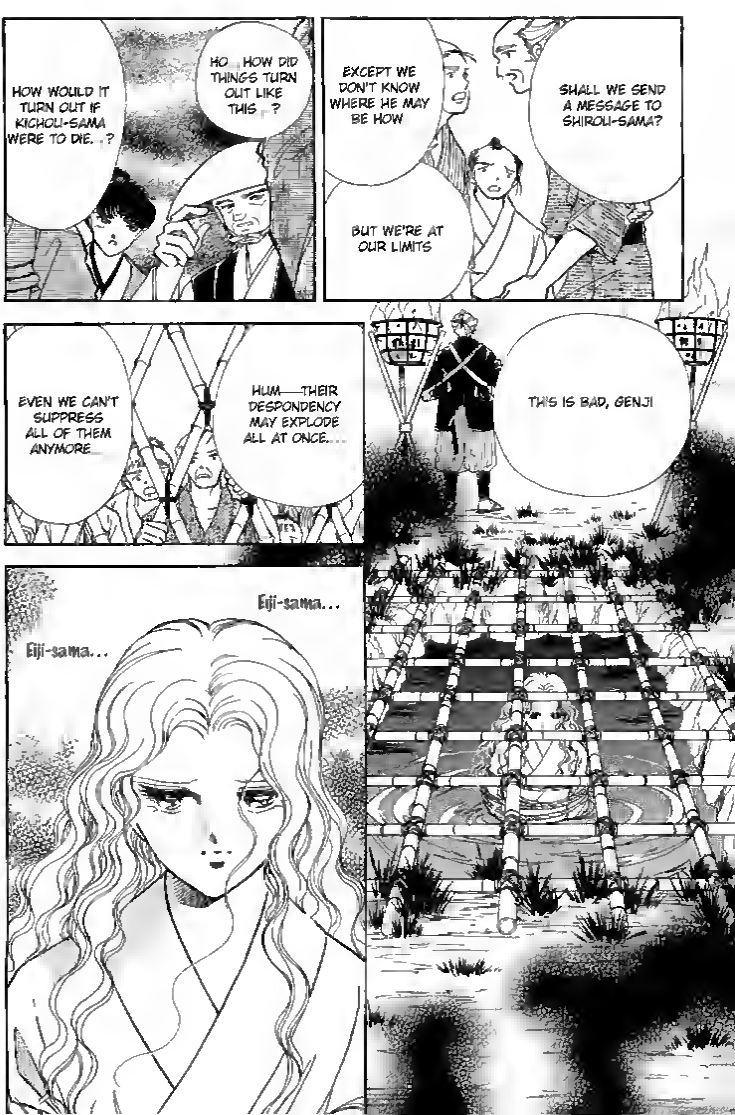
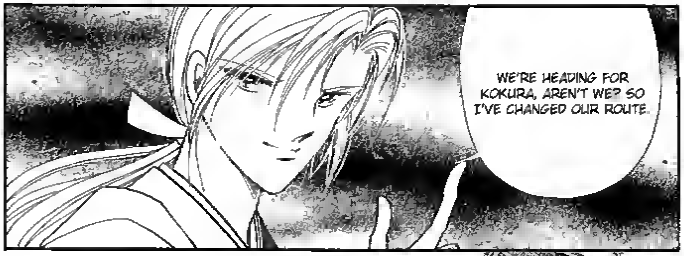

HOW WOULD IT TURN OUT IF KICHOU-SAMA WERE TO DIE...?
HO...HOW DID THINGS TURN OUT LIKE THIS...?
EXCEPT WE DON'T KNOW WHERE HE MAY BE NOW
SHALL WE SEND A MESSAGE TO SHIROU-SAMA?
BUT WE'RE AT OUR LIMITS
EVEN WE CAN'T SUPPRESS ALL OF THEM ANYMORE...
HUM—THEIR DESPONDENCY MAY EXPLODE ALL AT ONCE...
THIS IS BAD, GENJI
Eiji-sama...
Eiji-sama...

I want to see you,
just for one last time.
AH
WOOSH
SFX: VSSSHH

NATSUKI, THANK YOU
NO PROBLEM
THAT WAS CLOSE—
GRABS
YOU MUST TREASURE THIS SINCE IT'S FROM KICHOU-SAN IT'S AN IMPORTANT MUFFLER
YES, IT IS . . .
IF HE'S STILL IN KOKURA, WE CAN TURN BACK IMMEDIATELY
BUT... MIYAMOTO-KUN MUST BE WORRYING TOO
I WONDER WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AMAKUSA. I'M WORRIED

You can't take that man away!
BUT...
LET'S SNEAK INTO HIS PLACE IN KOKURA TO TAKE A LOOK IF HE'S IN MIYAMOTO MUSASHI'S HOUSE WE'LL SURELY SEE HIM SOON
TIGHTENS
NATSUKI...
IT'S BEST NOT TO PLACE TOO MUCH FAITH IN TOMORROW

EIJI.
I CAME HERE MUCH EARLIER THAN YOU, AND I'VE SEEN A LOT.
THE DOCTORS AND THE MEDICINES ARE SO DIFFERENT FROM THOSE IN THE 20TH CENTURY THAT PEOPLE DIE EASILY
Run! Natsuki!
IF YOU DON'T SEE HIM WHILE YOU STILL CAN, YOU MAY NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN.
YATSUKA!
OH



*T/N SHIMAZU MITSUHISA WENT TO EDO FOR SANKIN KOTAI (REFER TO CHAPTER 19 PAGE 21) WHICH WAS A BIENNIAL CHORE FOR KAGOSHIMA CLAN BUT AN ANNUAL CHORE FOR THE OTHER CLANS. IT'S ALSO PARTLY BECAUSE OF THAT KAGOSHIMA CLAN WAS ABLE TO PRESERVE THEIR RESOURCES AND WEALTH TO BE ONE OF THE RICHEST AND POWERFUL CLAN IN EDO PERIOD.

KO-DONO, YOU CAME ALL THE WAY FROM YOUR NATIVE SOIL TO KOKURA, SPECIALLY TO FETCH MITSUHISA-DONO WHO HAS RETURNED FROM EDO*. DIDN'T YOU?
Kagoshima Clan.
The concubine of Shimazu Mitsuhisa. Lady Oko.

APART FROM FETCHING MY DONO ..I'M ALSO HERE ABOUT SOME UNSTABLE SITUATIONS THAT I'VE OVERHEARD
SO THE RUMOUR'S RIGHT ABOUT YOU TWO BEING LOVE-BIRDS
YES.
ARE YOU REFERRING TO THE AREAS AROUND SHIMABARA ..? THE ISSUE ABOUT THE CHRISTIANS WHO ARE STIRRING UP TROUBLE?
I AM GREATLY RELIEVED HAVING HEARD WHAT YOU'VE JUST SAID
DON'T WORRY IF THE REBELLION BREAKS OUT, I, OGASAWARA WILL ANNIHILATE ALL THE REBELS.
RUSTLE
THAT'S GOOD, THAT'S GOOD
I, OGASAWARA TADAZANE, WILL PROTECT KYUSHU NO MATTER WHAT

I HAD HEARD THAT HE WAS A GENERAL OF VALOUR WHO HAD ACCOMPLISHED NUMEROUS MILITARY ACHIEVEMENTS ...
BUT HE ISN'T A REMARKABLE MAN, IS HE, THAT OGASAWARA TADAZANE.
HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT THE SITUATION IN SHIMABARA AMAKUSA YET HE SAID THAT HE'LL ANNIHILATE ALL THE REBELS AND THAT HE'LL PROTECT US——
HOW RIDICULOUS.
WITH ONLY 150,000 GOKU, OGASAWARA IS PLANNING TO KEEP A TIGHT REIN OF US, THE SHIMAZU HOUSE*,
WHO COMMANDS 700,000 GOKU?
*THE SHIMAZU HOUSE LED THE KAGOSHIMA CLAN WHICH WAS ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST AND MOST POWERFUL ONES IN EDO PERIOD WITH CONTROL OVER A LARGE AREA OF KYUSHU.

*T/N: HONJIN WAS THE OFFICIAL INN OR LODGING ALONG THE ROAD FOR THE FEUDAL LORDS AND COURT NOBLES TO STAY THE NIGHT DURING EDO PERIOD

Inner Kokura, Honjin* of Shimazu House

HER LADYSHIP HAS RETURNED

HER LADYSHIP HAS RETURNED——

YES, MY LADY

LISTEN, BE SURE THAT THE NEWS OF IEHISA-SAMA'S DEATH DOES NOT LEAK OUT

UNTIL DONO HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY MADE THE HEAD OF THE CLAN, THE SHIMAZU HOUSE CAN'T AFFORD EVEN THE SMALLEST SLIP UP

THE MAN WHO HAS POWER OVER KYUSHU IS MY DONO, SHIMAZU MITSUHISA-SAMA,

AND HIS ERA IS ABOUT TO BEGIN SINCE HIS FATHER, IEHISA-SAMA, IS DEAD——EVEN IF THE CHRISTIANS ARE STAGING AN INSURGENCY

THERE'S NO REASON NOT TO MAKE USE OF THAT.

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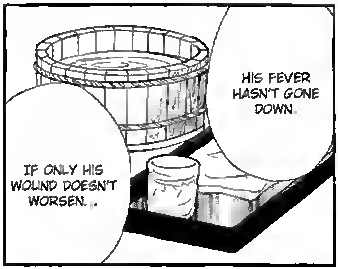
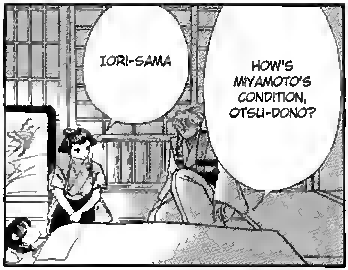
Hurry back to my side.
Please hurry back from Edo—— Pono
HUH——WHEN YOU SAID SHIMAZU DO YOU MEAN THE SHIMAZU OF KAGOSHIMA?
LOOK OVER THERE, THE CIRCULAR CREST WITH THE CHARACTER 'TEN' INSIDE—— THAT'S THE SYMBOL OF THE SHIMAZU HOUSE. THE LANTERNS ARE LIT. IS SOMEONE STAYING THE NIGHT?
THESE ARE HONJIN WHERE THE FEUDAL LORDS LODGE
HM——SO THIS IS KOKURA? THERE ARE MANY SOMEWHAT MAGNIFICENT BUILDINGS
NATSUKI, NATSUKI, MIYAMOTO-KUN'S PLACE IS OVER THERE
THAT'S RIGHT. IF I'M NOT WRONG, THE HEAD OF THE CLAN NOW IS SHIMAZU IEHISA AND TWO YEARS LATER, HE'LL DIE OF ILLNESS AND HIS SON WILL TAKE HIS PLACE BEGINNING THE MITSUHISA'S ERA.
THE SHIMAZU HOUSE RULED KAGOSHIMA UNTIL THE MEIJI PERIOD, AND EVEN BECOME A NOBLE FAMILY WITH A STATUS LOWER THAN THE EMPEROR BUT HIGHER THAN THE SAMURAI.

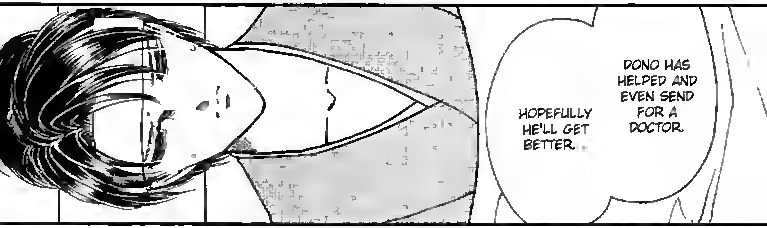
THE LANTERNS SHOW THE CREST OF THE OGASAWARA HOUSE THEY COME FROM THE CASTLE TO PROTECT MIYAMOTO MUSASHI-SAMA.
THE SECURITY IS... RATHER TIGHT, ISN'T IT?

Only Otsu-san has seen me,
I'm shocked.
THIS MAN WHO IS AFTER MIYAMOTO MUSASHI'S LIFE IS WITH THE CHRISTIANS THOSE WHO HAVE SEEN HIM ARE TO REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO——
HUH——THE CHRISTIANS—
HEY, HEY, LOOK,
WHAT, WHAT?

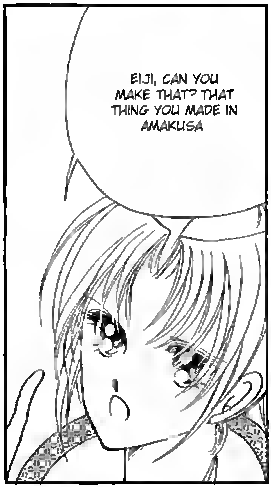
but she goes this far just so that I can't get close to Miyamoto—


HIS FEVER HASN'T GONE DOWN.
IF ONLY HIS WOUND DOESN'T WORSEN...


IORI-SAMA
HOW'S MIYAMOTO'S CONDITION, OTSU-DONO?

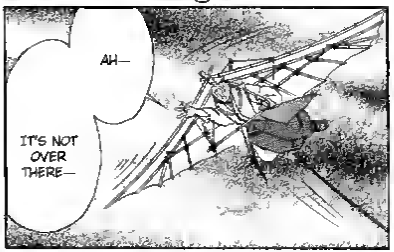

DONO HAS HELPED AND EVEN SENT FOR A DOCTOR.
HOPEFULLY HE'LL GET BETTER...

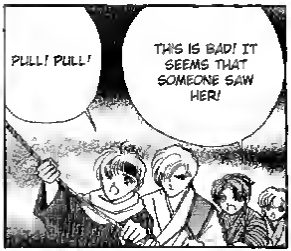
WELL... THAT ...I CAN...

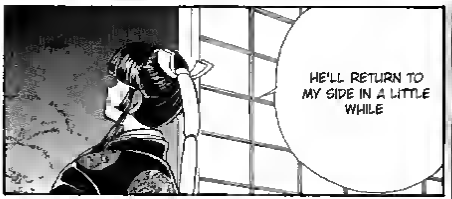

EIJI, CAN YOU MAKE THAT? THAT THING YOU MADE IN AMAKUSA

WHAT SHALL WE DO? WE REALLY CAN'T GET VERY CLOSE THIS WAY.

ONCE SHE HAS THE IDEA, SHE WON'T LISTEN TO WHATEVER WE SAY.
THIS IS REALLY RECKLESS...AND DANGEROUS—
HM—PH...
AH...OVER THERE.
AH...!
AH! SOMETHING IS IN THE SKY!


AH—
IT'S NOT OVER THERE—


PULL! PULL!
THIS IS BAD! IT SEEMS THAT SOMEONE SAW HER!


HE'LL RETURN TO MY SIDE IN A LITTLE WHILE

IS DONO AT THE HARBOUR NOW? IS HE ARRIVING SOON?
YES.

WAH—

HIC...
PITTER-PATTER
PITTER-PATTER
SFX: WHISH
A...CRUCIFIX...
DING

FROM... THE SKY... YOU WERE FLYING...?!
AH—I'M SORRY TO HAVE FRIGHTENED YOU. I JUST SLIPPED AND FELL——
I'M SORRY, I'LL BE LEAVING SOON
I'M NOT A SUSPICIOUS INTRUDER—— I JUST MISSED MY TARGET A LITTLE——
HE JUST FELL RIGHT HERE.
IT'S HERE!

THEY SAID THAT THEY'RE LOOKING FOR CHRISTIANS AND THAT GOD'S MESSENGER WHO IS AFTER MUSASHI-SAMA'S LIFE HAS APPEARED,
SEEKING SANCTUARY IN OUR PLACE.
MY LADY!
LADY OKO!
SOMEHOW THE PEOPLE FROM THE KOKURA CLAN ARE OUTSIDE...
I'LL SEE THEM NOW. YOU MAY LEAVE
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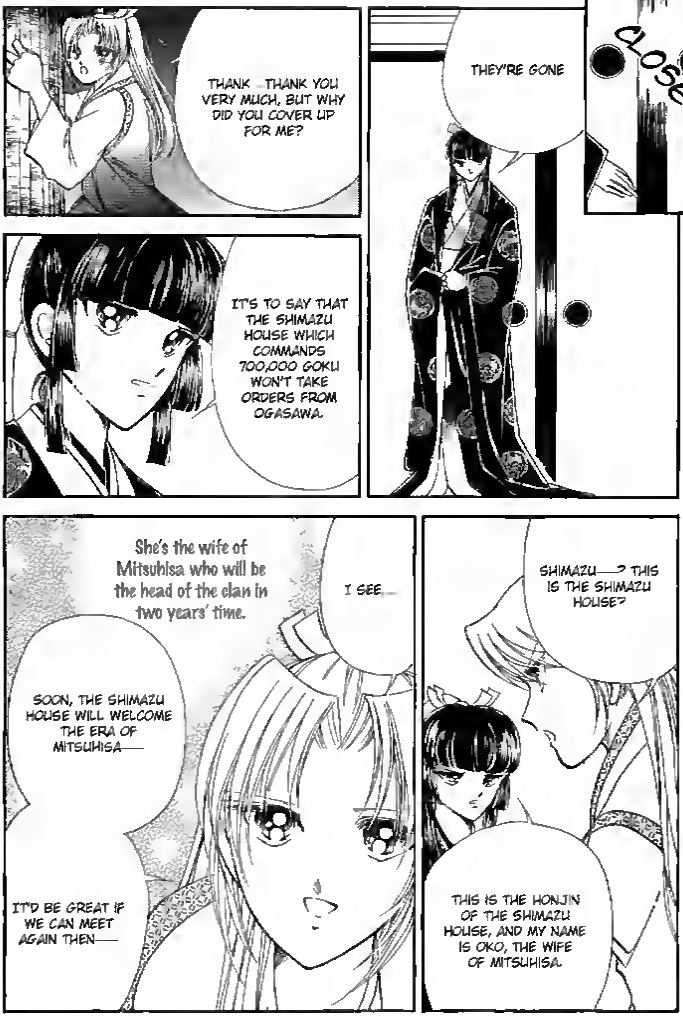
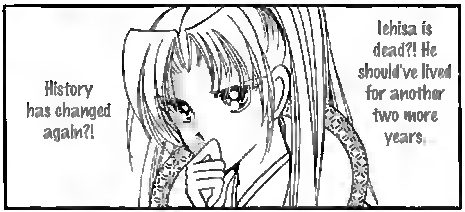
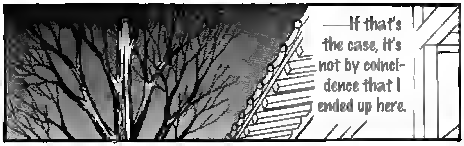
IS THAT TRUE——? ARE YOU PERHAPS SHIROU FROM... AMAKUSA...?
——YOU'LL BE INVOLVED IN THIS SO IT'S BEST THAT YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING
I'M SORRY, I'LL BE LEAVING SOON.

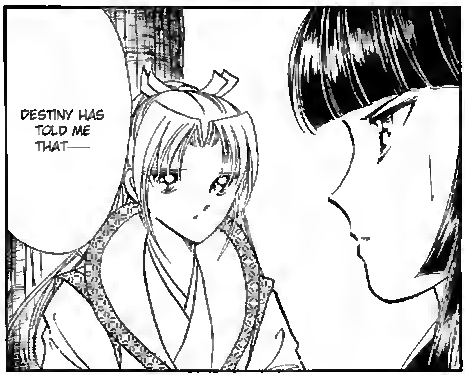
HUH...
WAIT STAY THERE!
THERE OUGHT TO BE A CHRISTIAN THERE!
PLEASE LET US LOOK AROUND THE GARDEN
THERE'S NO SUCH PERSON! IF WE EVER FIND SUCH A PERSON, WE'LL HAND HIM OVER TO THE KOKURA CLAN NO MATTER WHAT PLEASE GET OUT NOW...
THERE SHOULD BE A CHRISTIAN WHO SOUGHT SANCTUARY HERE——
HOW NOISY! WHAT'S THE MATTER? DON'T YOU ROUGHNECKS KNOW THAT THIS IS THE HONJIN OF THE SHIMAZU HOUSE!
OR COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE SUSPECTING THE SHIMAZU HOUSE?
WE'RE BUSY GETTING READY TO WELCOME OUR DONO
NO...NO..

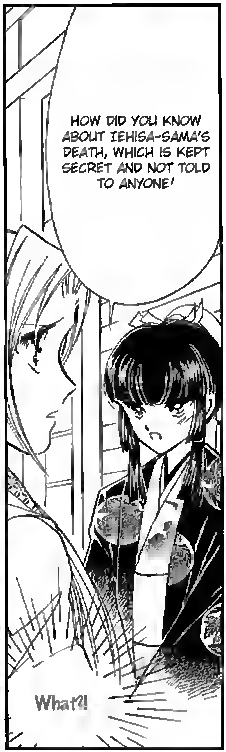

THANK...THANK YOU VERY MUCH, BUT WHY DID YOU COVER UP FOR ME?
THEY'RE GONE
CLOSE
IT'S TO SAY THAT THE SHIMAZU HOUSE WHICH COMMANDS 700,000 GOKU WON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM OGASAWA.
She's the wife of Mitsuhisa who will be the head of the clan in two years' time.
I SEE...
SHIMAZU——? THIS IS THE SHIMAZU HOUSE?
SOON, THE SHIMAZU HOUSE WILL WELCOME THE ERA OF MITSUHISA——
IT'D BE GREAT IF WE CAN MEET AGAIN THEN——
THIS IS THE HONJIN OF THE SHIMAZU HOUSE, AND MY NAME IS OKO, THE WIFE OF MITSUHISA.

HOW DID YOU——
——YOU...


History has changed again?!
Iehisa is dead?! He should've lived for another two more years...


——If that's the case, it's not by coincidence that I ended up here.


DESTINY HAS TOLD ME THAT——


HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT IEHISA-SAMA'S DEATH, WHICH IS KEPT SECRET AND NOT TOLD TO ANYONE!
What?!

I'VE SEEN SHIMABARA AMAKUSA——THE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN WAITING ALL ALONG
FOR JUST ONE MAN……
So it's true… that he has mysterious powers?
THE MAN WHO'S CALLED AMAKUSA SHIROU——
It's as though he doesn't belong to this world
Such beautiful eyes
THE ONE KNOWN AS GOD'S MESSENGER WHO CREATES MIRACLES
A young man who comes from the sky with miraculous powers——
A radiant smile..
YES. THAT'S WHY I CAN'T AFFORD TO BE CAUGHT.
THERE ARE 30,000 PEOPLE WAITING FOR ME
This is——

EXCUSE ME——COULD YOU PLEASE ALLOW ME TO MEET THE DONO OF SHIMAZU?
MY LADY, DONO HAS ARRIVED
I'LL BE WITH HIM SOON
I'VE COME TO VISIT THE FEUDAL LORDS IN ALL PARTS OF KYUSHU
FOR JUST ONE REQUEST
WHAT BUSINESS DOES GOD'S MESSENGER HAVE WITH DONO?
YOU WENT TO KURODA AND HOSOKAWA... TO ASK THEM OF THIS AND SURVIVE TO BE HERE?!
WELL——YES
I HOPE THAT YOU WON'T ATTACK SHIMABARA EVEN WHEN THE REBELLION HAPPENS——I ONLY ASK OF THIS
A REQUEST——? WHAT'S THAT?

I don't believe this.
He approached all the feudal lords, asking them of that and still live to stand here, smiling away.
Could he have won those feudal lords over to his side——?
This man.
may have powers that are beyond our imagination——
he came from the sky.
God's messenger...
PLEASE WAIT HERE
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
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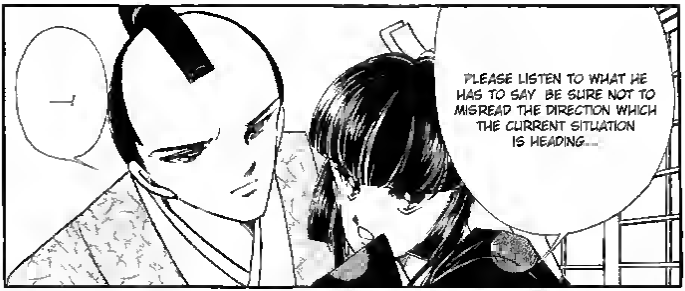
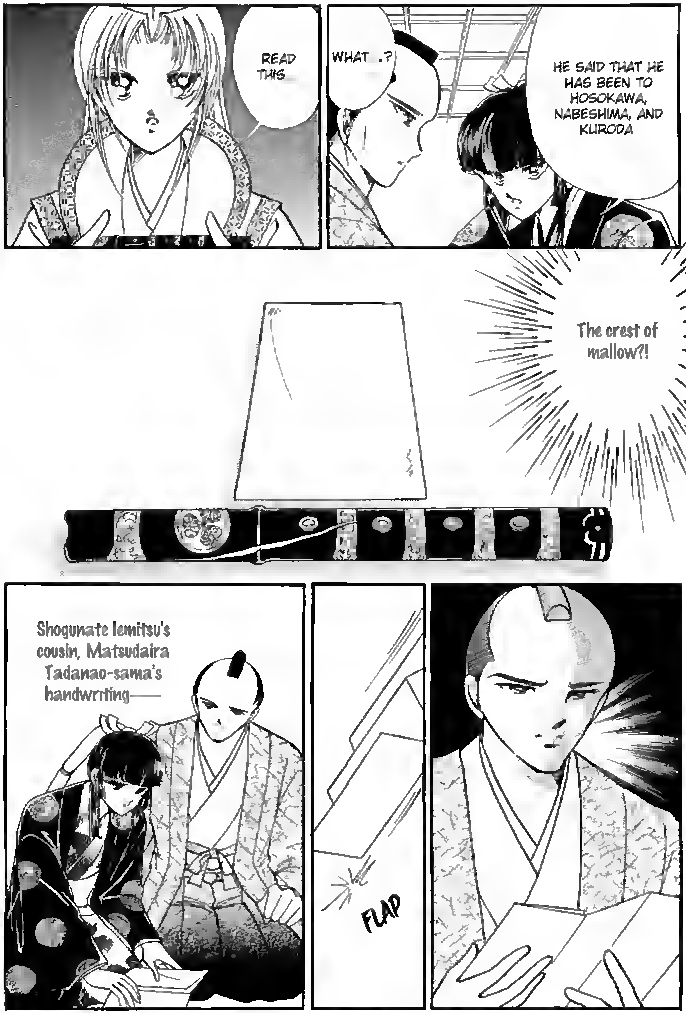
DONO. MAY I SPEAK WITH YOU IN PRIVATE
HM?
OPENS
OKO, DID YOU COME SPECIALLY TO KOKURA?
Kagoshima Clan,
Shimazu Mitsuhisa

WHO...WHO'S THERE?!

HE FELL FROM THE SKY AND WAS CAUGHT IN THAT TREE. IT ASTOUNDED ME.
FE...FELL?
HE'S GOD'S MESSENGER WHO'S BEING WIDELY TALKED ABOUT NOW, AND HE FELL INTO OUR HONJIN.
O...OKO!
DONO! SHIMABARA AMAKUSA, WHERE THESE PEOPLE ARE, IS NOW IN A TERRIBLE SITUATION. PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THE WAY IT IS NOW AND COMPARE IT TO HOW WE USED TO KNOW IT.
THOSE MEN OUTSIDE ARE LOOKING FOR THIS MAN?! WE'LL BE IN BIG TROUBLE IF EDO FINDS OUT OF US SHELTERING A CHRISTIAN!
A HUGE INSURGENCY WILL OCCUR BEFORE LONG AND THE FATE OF SHIMAZU THAT COMMANDS 700,000 GOKU DEPENDS ON YOU, DONO.
WHA-...WHAT...


…!
PLEASE LISTEN TO WHAT HE HAS TO SAY. BE SURE NOT TO MISREAD THE DIRECTION WHICH THE CURRENT SITUATION IS HEADING…

MY NAME IS MASUDA SHIROU TOKISADA, AND I ONLY HAVE ONE REQUEST.
BECAUSE SHIMAZU IS ALREADY DONO'S ERA.
I HOPE THAT YOU WON'T ATTACK MY PEOPLE WHEN THE REBELLION ARISES—
I'M SHIMAZU MITSUHISA. DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL ME?


READ THIS
WHAT...?
HE SAID THAT HE HAS BEEN TO HOSOKAWA, NABESHIMA, AND KURODA
The crest of mallow?!
Shogunate Iemitsu's cousin, Matsudaira Tadanao-sama's handwriting——
FLAP

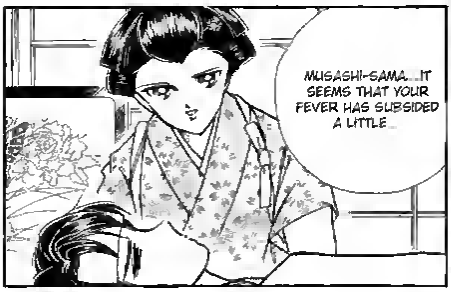
THANK YOU VERY MUCH WELL THEN——
I'VE PREPARED A KIMONO FOR YOU. LEAVE FROM THE BACK.
YOUR TASK IS DONE HERE, ISN'T IT? PLEASE HURRY BACK
AH, SURE
I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU WHILE YOU'RE IN MOURNING. I BELIEVE IT'S VERY SADDENING THAT YOUR FATHER HAS PASSED ON—— DO TAKE CARE
HOW DID HE KNOW ABOUT FATHER'S DEATH——?
OKO, THIS IS...
IT'S INCREDULOUS. IS THIS THE SO-CALLED MIRACULOUS POWER?
AH, THIS FELL AND BROKE WHEN HE CAME FROM THE SKY
HE LEFT, LEAVING IT BEHIND...

NATSUKI, GET ON!
GALLOP
GALLOP
AH... SHE'S OUT! NATSUKI
YES
I WAS SHOCKED THAT YOU FELL INTO THE HONJIN OF THE SHIMAZU HOUSE
IT SEEMS THAT THEY'RE KEEPING IT A SECRET BUT SHIMAZU IEHISA HAS DIED AND MITSUHISA HAS RETURNED——
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
BUT...I FEEL THAT IT'S NOT BY CHANCE...
HUH—AMAZING!
AND I MET HIM THERE
BECAUSE HISTORY HAS CHANGED AGAIN.

DESTINY...
IT'S AS INCREDIBLE AS WITH KURODA! THE TIMING IS PERFECT!
IF IT'S THE REAL HISTORY, HE'D ONLY BECOME THE DONO AFTER TWO YEARS!
YES, THIS IS PERHAPS WHAT DESTINY IS...
I THINK WE HAVE TO DIVIDE SOME SOLDIERS TO BE DEPLOYED TO KOKURA WHEN THE REBELLION STARTS.
IT'S ONLY THE DONO OF KOKURA THAT I CAN'T SEEM TO MEET.
YES.

THE KANMON STRAIT SEPARATES JAPAN MAINLAND AND KYUSHU. IT IS A STRATEGIC JOINT OF COMMUNICATION AND TRAFFIC BETWEEN THE LAND AND SEA.
WE'VE TO GET READY FOR A SEA BATTLE AND DEFEND THE KANMON STRAIT* WITH OUR LIVES.
YAITSUKA...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE THINGS THAT CHRISTIANS DO
I'M SURPRISED THAT HE CAME FROM THE SKY.


MUSASHI-SAMA...IT SEEMS THAT YOUR FEVER HAS SUBSIDED A LITTLE...

RATTLE
RATTLE
YES.
THAT'S GREAT
That's
...
my uniform ...?
CLOSES

I didn't know that I had my mobile!
connect to her
Please...
The battery which Eiji made.

THE SKY IS SCARLET
...H—THE MORNING GLOW...
PI-PI-PI-PI-PI-PI-PI
I WONDER IF NATSUKI CAN DISPEL THAT IDEA——
WHAT SHOULD WE DO? SHOULD WE RETURN TO AMAKUSA?
HUH... WHY? EVERYONE IS HERE THOUGH...
PI-PI-PI-PI
YES...

NO WAY!
HUH?
MIYAMOTO!
MIYAMOTO MISAKI
YES NATSUKI, I'M SORRY YOU CAME TO SEE ME, DIDN'T YOU?
MIYAMOTO!
MIYAMOTO!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!

RETURN TO AMAKUSA. I'LL GO THERE AFTERWARDS NO MATTER WHAT
MIYAMOTO——
I'LL DEFINITELY—BE THERE COME RAIN OR SHINE.
「AMAKUSA 1637」

*The crest of Shimazu house a circle with the Japanese character 'ten'

Sankin Kotai was indeed a troublesome chore. Hence, it's understandable that Shimazu which was at the end of Kyushu was getting more and more displeased about it. I created a character, Oka-sama which was a result of watching the drama 'Ooku' that prompted me to feel that strong women are really cool and I tried to produce one. However, it was a male-oriented society so such women may not have existed. I do not dislike women who entice, scold or encourage their husbands as much as Oka-sama had done. This Oka-sama who was seen here was designed to be a rather young woman.

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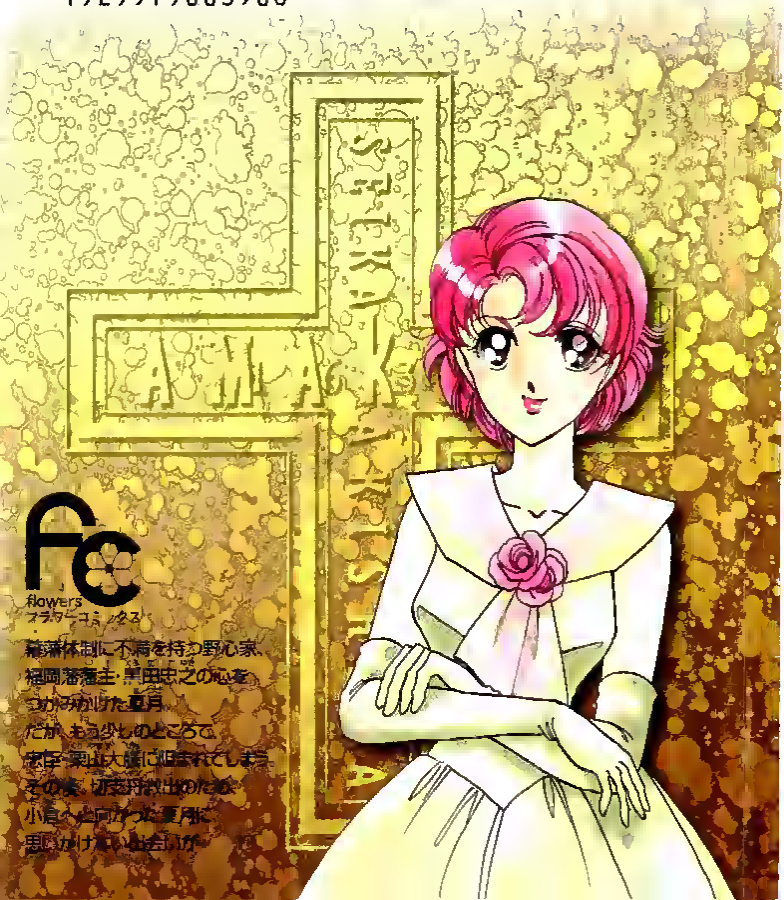

flowers フラワーコミックス

華麗体制に不満を持つ野心家、
福岡藩藩主・黒田忠之の心を
つかみかけた夏月。
だが、もう少しのところで
徳川家康大将軍に阻まれてしまう。
その後、切支丹救出のため
小倉へと向かった夏月に
思いがけない出会いが…

赤石路代の本

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BAM!
Wahhhhhh
But But But
Boiling
Boiling
There aren't any releases of my favorite manga this week?
What do you mean...
SHOCK
IT'S NOT LIKE WE DON'T WANT TO RELEASE FASTER...
WE JUST DON'T HAVE THE STAFF
We need more people!
LIKE EDITIONS
AH, I WISH.
No matter how adorable you are
We just can't release fast enough
QCERS TOO.
Until we get more staff...
So unless we get help no matter how many rooms you throw yourself into
WE HAD TRANSLATORS
SO
JOIN US.
EVIL FLOWERS NEEDS TRANSLATORS, EDITORS, AND QUALITY CHECKERS!